Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE der the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number Request 09/851,242 Application Number For Filing Date May 8, 2001 Continued Examination (RCE) Charles J. Runkle First Named Inventor Transmittal Address to: 1732 Art Unit Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents Examiner Name S. Staicovici P.O. Box 1450 2000.16 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Attorney Docket Number This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on Other Enclosed Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Amendment/Reply Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s) Other Submission of Formal Drawings 2. Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required) The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. Fees The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-2447 RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 07/29/2003 MBERHE 00000150 082447 09851242 Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 750.00 DA Other ijį. Check in the amount of \$__ enclosed Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED |
| Name (Print/Type) | Robert Hammer III | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 31,764 |
| Signature | Date | July 25, 2003 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type) Janice B. Davis

Signature Sauce B. Warre

Date July 25, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

#14/B 1.1.H 9.603

Attorney Docket No. 2000.16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Application of:

Xunkle, et al

Art Unit: 1732

Serial No. 09/851,242

Examiner: S. Staicovici

Filed: May 8, 2001

For: METHOD FOR MAKING A HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE CONTACTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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This Preliminary Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) that is filed in reply to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003 (Paper No. 10).

This amendment is being filed pursuant to the revised format set forth in Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted, --- Off. Gaz. Pat. Office --- (Feb. 25, 2003).

Attached please find a Petition and Fee for a two-month extension of time.

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.